

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00

FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AF-06 OIC-02 /127 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 733

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MEXOCO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: MTN: TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING, FEB 11-13.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

1. SUMMARY: MTN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE (TNC) MEETING FEBRUARY 11-13 AGREED ON CREATION AND INITIAL SCHEDULE OF FUNCTIONAL GROUPS TO CONDUCT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH LARGE MEASURE OF FLEXIBILITY. MEETING WENT SMOOTHLY AND ACHIEVED OBJECTIVES. THE MTN NEGOTIATING PHASE HAS NOW BEGUN. END SUMMARY.

2. DIRECTOR GENERAL LONG OPENED MEETING WITH HIS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN FORM OF SUMMING UP OF VIEWS EXPRESSING BY PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING. FOLLOWING IS GATT TEXT MTN/W/10 IN ITS ENTIRETY. MATERIAL IN PARENTHESES INDICATES LONG'S REMARKS NOT RECORDED IN THE GATT DOCUMENT:

(1) A GROUP "TROPICAL PRODUCTS" SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO ORGANIZE AND CONDUCT THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THIS SECTOR.

(2) A GROUP "TARIFFS" SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO DRAW UP A TARIFF NEGOTIATING PLAN AS OF GENERAL APPLICATION AS POSSIBLE, TAKING DULY INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEW OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

(3) A GROUP "NON-TARIFF MEASURES" SHOULD INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS ON THESE MEASURES ON AS WIDE A BASIS AS POSSIBLE, EITHER IN THE GROUP ITSELF OR IN SUB-GROUPS. (HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE WAS GENERAL INTEREST IN DEALING NOW WITH SOME NTB AREAS ON WHICH CONSIDERABLE WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE: QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS (INCLUDING EXPORT RESTRAINTS), EXPORT SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, STANDARDS, CUSTOMS VALUATION, PACKAGING AND LABELLING, AND IMPORT DOCUMENTATION.)

(4) A GROUP "AGRICULTURE" SHOULD BE CREATED. THIS GROUP, IN THE SAME WAY AS THE GROUP ON NON-TARIFF MEASURES WILL DECIDE ITSELF HOW TO ORGANIZE ITS WORK EITHER BY TAKING UP ALL THESE QUESTIONS ITSELF OR BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAY OF SUB-GROUPS WHICH IT WILL BE ABLE TO CREATE AT WHAT IT CONSIDERS AN APPROPRIATE TIME. THE AGRICULTURE GROUP WILL OF COURSE BE COMPETENT FOR THE WHOLE RANGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FOR ALL THE ELEMENTS RELEVANT TO TRADE IN THESE PRODUCTS. TO ARRIVE AT OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE, THE HARMONIOUS AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF ALL THE ELEMENTS SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS IT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERLINE THAT IT IS OTHER GROUPS QUESTIONS WHICH ARE

LIKELY TO CONCERN AGRICULTURE ARE TAKEN UP, THE AGRICULTURE GROUP SHALL CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE MATTER AS REGARDS THE AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS. (LONG REFERRED TO MANY STATEMENTS WHICH CITED THE NEED FOR SPECIAL GROUPS TO DEAL WITH SPECIAL PROBLEMS, FOR EXAMPLE NEAT, DAIRY, GRAINS (INCLUDING RICE), SUGAR, HEALTH STANDARDS AND EXPORT SUBSIDIES.)

(5) A GROUP SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO CARRY OUT AN EXAMINATION OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE MULTILATERAL SAFEGUARD SYSTEM CONSIDERING PARTICULARLY THE MODALITIES OF APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIX, WITH A VIEW TO FURTHERING TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND PRESERVING ITS RESULTS.

(6) A GROUP SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO CARRY OUT AN EXAMINATION OF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE COORDINATED REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF ALL BARRIERS TO TRADE IN SELECTED SECTORS, AS A COMPLEMENTARY TECHNIQUE.

(7) IN CARRYING OUT ITS TASKS, EACH GROUP WILL TAKE DUE ACCOUNT, IN THE AREA OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH WHICH IT IS CONCERNED, OF THE SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD FOR SECURING THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION AS IT RELATES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

(8) THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE DECIDED TO CONVENE THE INITIAL MEETINGS FOR THE GROUPS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) GROUP "NON-TARIFF MEASURES" - WEEK OF 3 MARCH

(B) GROUP "TROPICAL PRODUCTS" - WEEK OF 10 MARCH

(C) GROUP "TARIFFS" - WEEK OF 17 MARCH

(D) GROUP "AGRICULTURE" - WEEK OF 24 MARCH

(E) GROUP "SECTOR APPROACH" - WEEK OF 7 APRIL

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(F) GROUP "SAFEGUARDS" - WEEK OF 7 APRIL

END TEXT

3. SUPPLY MANAGEMENT. LONG SUGGESTED SIVEPW NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS HAD RAISED QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO SUPPLY ACCESS, IN A GENERAL WAY IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO EXAMINE HOW ISSUES ON THIS QUESTION ARE SEEN BY THE PARTICIPANTS. NEXT STEP MIGHT BE TO TRY TO DETERMINE PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS UNCOVERED.

4. REFORM OF THE SYSTEM. LONG'S VIEW WAS THAT ONCE WE ACHIEVE RESULTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE ABOVE GROUPS IT WOULD THEN BE EASIER TO BEGIN WORK ON REVISING THE TRADING SYSTEM.

5. LONG DECLARED TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE (TNC) NOW SITTING IN PERMANENT SESSION TO COORDINATE THE WORK OF THE BARIOUS GROUPS AND TO CARRY OUT REVIEWS OF THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS (ESPECIALLY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES). HE SUGGESTED THE FIRST REVIEW HE HELD IN JUNE OR JULY OF THIS YEAR AND THEN OPENED THE FLOOR FOR COMMENTS.

6. THE FIRST COMMENT WAS MADE BY INDIA (CHADHA) INDICATING BASIS AGREEMENT WITH LONG'S SUMMING UP. HOWEVER,INDIA MADE THE POINT THAT EVEN THOUGH MANY TROPICAL PRODUCTS ARE AGRICULTURAL, THSE PRODUCTS SHOLD CONTINUE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP AND NOT TRANSFERRED TO THE AGRICULTURE GROUP, OR AT THE VERY LEAST THAT TROPICAL PRODUCTS BE TREATED JOINTLY BY THE TWO GROUPS.

7. THE UNITED STATES WOLFF) THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE. WE WLECOME THE PROPITIOUS BEGINNING OF THE NEGOTIATING PHASE OF THE MTN. WE LOOK FORWARD IN THE TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF GROUPS TO A BROAD NEGOTIATION OF THE WHOLE RANGE OF TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF ISSUES. WE FEEL THE AGRICULTURAL GROUP, THOUGH ITS EXPERTISE, WILL MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE COLLABROATION OF THSE GROUPS AND PARID PROGRESS TODAY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A NUMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICIPANTS MAY WISH TO RAISE SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO TEM IN THE FORUM OF THEIR CHOICE, AND THE CHARIMAN'S STATEMENT CONTAINS A GOOD DEAL OF FLEXIBILITY IN THIS REGARD.UNQUOTE.

8. THE EC (HIJZEN) INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH LONG'S BUT IN LIGHT OF EARLIER EC STATEMENTS AND EC OPENING STATEMENT AT THIS MEETING.

9. MEXICO (GARRIDO) SUPPORTED INDIA ON THE TREATMENT OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND SUPPORTED THE U.S.POSITION THAT ANY PROBLEM CAN BE DISCUSSED IN ANY NEGOTIATING BODY WHICH A COUNTRY DEEMS APPROPRIATE. MEXICO THEN SUGGESTED THAT PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PERHAPS SHOLD BEST NOT BE DEALT WITH IN THE AGRICULTURAL GROUP BUT IN OTHER BODIES.

10. NEW ZEALAND (ESTERBORROOK-SMITH) INDICATED ACCEPTANCE OF LONG'S CONCLUSIONS AND PSECIFICALLY ACCEPTED FORMATION OF THE AGRICULTURE GROUP. HOWEVER, NEW ZEALAND ASKED LONG WHETHER THE TNC WAS DEFINITELY INSTRUCTED THE AGRICULTURE GROUP, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, TO BEGIN

NEGOTIATIONS ON MEAT AND DIARY PRODUCTTS. LONG REPLIED
THAT IN HIS SUMMATIONHE HOPED THAT HE HAD MADE IT
CLEAR THAT THE TNC WAS INDEED INSTRUCTING THE
AGRICULTURE GROUP TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS BUT THAT THE
ORDER IN WHICH THE GROUP BEGINS WORK ON THE ISSUES IS
UP TO THE GROUP ITSELF.

11. JAPAN (TSURUMI) VERY BRIEFLY INDICATED GENERAL
AGREEMENT WITH LONG'S STATEMENT AND URGED THAT
NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

12. AUSTRALIA (WARWICK-SMITH) POINTED OUT THAT WHILE
AUSTRALIA DIFFERS WITH SOME OF LONG'S CONCLUSIONS ON
AGRICULTURE,THEY WERE OT OPPOSING THE PROGRAM OUTLINED
BY LONG, BUT WERE NOT FIVING IT A STAMP OF APPROVAL.
THEIR POSITION WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM THAT GIVEN IN
THIER OPENING STATEMENT.

13. THE GROUPS ONCE FORMED WILL SELECT THEIR CHAIRMEN.
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EACH GROUP WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO INVITE UNCTAD
SECRETARY GENERAL OR HIS DESIGNATE TO GROUP MEETINGS.
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